

rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF TRANDAHL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, obviously with the very exciting day that we have had, to the Clerk, my 1-hour Special Order changed to a 5-minute Special Order, now to a 1-minute.

I just want to say thank you for the work you have done. The 32nd Clerk of the House, a native of Spearfish, South Dakota, again over 20 years of service.

We had a great reception last night where your loyal supporters and friends and folks that have worked for you were there to say thanks for a tremendous effort. You give great credit to the professional staff and working in what has to be a very challenging environment, dealing with politicians and our whims and our foibles.

□ 2340

We want to thank him for that. He has brought great credit to that in a long line of Clerks who served honorably, and we just wish for his successor great success and blessings as she takes on this great challenge in this new role.

BACKGROUND

32nd Clerk of the House.

Native of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Twenty years of House service.

Aide to: James Abdor (R-SD) in House and Senate; Virginia Smith (R-NE); Pat Roberts (R-KS); Committees on Appropriations and House Administration.

Assistant to the Clerk, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Deputy Clerk; appointed Clerk December 1998 and elected Clerk 106th through 109th Congresses.

Graduate of University of Maryland.

Begins appointment as Executive Director of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on November 21, 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS AS CLERK

Guided major House information technology initiatives to including introduction of XML technology to standardize creation and exchange of legislative information.

Oversaw creation and management of first permanent and professional House curatorial and archival services.

Oversaw flourishing of House Page Program with construction of new Page Residence Hall, and enhanced academic status and national recognition of the House Page School.

Instrumental in creation of House Office of Emergency Preparedness and leader in establishing and improving continuity of operations planning for the House.

Implemented program to expand House portraiture collection of historical House figures, including the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Hispanic-American elected to Congress.

Implemented the first electronic filing program for the House.

Mr. HASTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to Jeff Trandahl, the

departing Clerk of the House. We are going to miss Jeff who has given over 20 years of faithful service to the United States Congress.

After rising through the ranks in Member and committee offices, in 1994 Jeff became a principle assistant to the transition team of the new Republican majority, helping to set up the first new majority in almost five decades. Jeff served as an assistant to the Clerk and then as the Acting Chief Administrative Officer of the House. In December 1998, I selected Jeff as my first officer appointment and the 32nd Clerk of the House. Jeff was subsequently elected by the House to four consecutive 2-year terms. He served on four occasions as the presiding officer for the opening of the House, overseeing the seating of Members and the election of the Speaker.

As the chief legislative official of the House, Jeff has been responsible for the daily legislative operations of the House from the day's Journal to our voting system. He has led the House Page Program, which under Jeff's leadership was recognized as a top educational institution, and he has managed the House's historical, curatorial, and archival needs.

Jeff has also been very instrumental in the development of the Capitol Visitor Center project, especially the future exhibit space. Jeff has provided valuable leadership to the House Fine Arts Board, the Capitol Preservation Commission, and the National Archives Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Jeff's tenure as Clerk has coincided with extraordinary events, including 9/11 and anthrax. Thanks to Jeff and the other Officers of the House, the House was prepared with contingency plans. Jeff was also instrumental in making the ceremonial session in New York City to mark the 1 year anniversary of 9/11 a tremendously moving and historical event.

On both sides of the Capitol building and on both sides of the aisle, Jeff is known for his fairness, his dedication, and his hard work. As I have said before, Republican and Democratic Members of Congress alike have enormous respect for Jeff's vast institutional knowledge, his utter professionalism, and his ability to get things done—traits which have made him a very effective and successful Clerk.

I join my colleagues in wishing Jeff all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, I express our sincere gratitude for Jeff's long and faithful service.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TROOPS IN IRAQ AND DIRE CONSEQUENCES

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it has been a meaningful and historic night. But it still deeply concerns me that there are Members of this body that have been constantly misinforming the public about pre-war intelligence on Iraq and demanding timetables for troop withdrawal. They seem to be wholly unaware of the dire consequences of even talking about pulling our troops out, let alone demanding it.

Our brave men and women in uniform have always fought desperately to preserve those unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness endowed by the Creator Himself. And that is exactly what they are doing now in Iraq, and we should all be deeply grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am so desperately worried about is whether the people in this body and in this Republic truly understand what we are facing, not only as a Nation, but as Western Civilization.

The question we must ask ourselves is not whether we can win this war. We must win this war. The question now is what will happen if we do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am so concerned that this Nation does not yet understand that we are at war with an ideology, an ideology that threatens the existence of the Free World. This war did not begin on 9/11. This war began many years ago when certain Muslim extremists embraced a divergent Islamist dogma that dictates that all infidels must die.

Our Nation was first attacked during its very early beginnings in the late 1700s by the Barbary terrorists of the day. More recently, we were attacked in 1979 in Iran. Our embassy and our marine barracks were attacked in Beirut in 1983. The first World Trade Center attack was in 1993, Mr. Speaker; and we still did not wake up to what was happening at the time. Our military complexes and soldiers have been targeted throughout the world. The Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Our embassies were blown up in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. We witnessed the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000. Mr. Speaker, 1 year later on September 11, terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 American civilians on our own soil, and I wonder tonight have we forgotten that.

Since then our soldiers and our contractors have been kidnapped and executed, their bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets.

And we are not alone, Mr. Speaker. This has taken place throughout the

world. In Serbia and Bosnia, soldiers, POWs, and civilians were beheaded by mujahideen. In Beslan, Russia, 186 children and 158 teachers and parents were slaughtered in a terrorist assault against a grade school. And just weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, in Indonesia, three young girls on their way to school were attacked and beheaded by Muslim extremists. Their names, Mr. Speaker, their names were Theresa, Ida, and Alfrita.

Churches are being attacked. Pastors have been kidnapped, tortured, and beheaded. And it seems there is not a day that goes by without a suicide or a car bomb attack in Iraq.

We have witnessed the horrific bombings in Spain, London, Indonesia, Jordan, and Israel. Rioters have completely disrupted hundreds of cities in France.

We simply cannot deny that we are fighting a war against enemies with an evil ideology that is bent on the destruction of the Western World. They are committed to killing us, Mr. Speaker, and any others that hold in their mind to be infidels.

Mr. Speaker, we truly are at war, and to undermine the sacrifice and blood-bought advancement of our valiant American soldiers who are at this very moment fighting terrorists in Iraq and across the world is unconscionable.

A nation divided against itself simply cannot stand, Mr. Speaker. And those of us in this body, along with all Americans, must unite against this evil. We must win the war in Iraq. We must give our troops unequivocal support and everything else in our power to help them finish this job. Our troops have never failed us, and we must not fail them.

Mr. Speaker, if freedom is to survive, to allow Islamist terrorists to declare war and victory in Iraq is not an option. We must win and we cannot leave before the job is done. Because if we leave too soon, Mr. Speaker, we will not be able to go on with our daily lives as we once did. Because the world has truly changed. And those without conscience are relentlessly seeking to destroy us, and we must not let them ever have even the slightest hope of victory. Not ever, Mr. Speaker.

DIPLOMATICALLY PURSUING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well tonight after a long day of debate on whether or not we should redeploy our troops from Iraq.

A careful reading of the gentleman from Pennsylvania's resolution, had we debated it, would have pointed out that the fourth point that he raised was that we have to diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq. It is that issue I want to talk about because the question is always raised, If we leave,

will it not get worse? Will it not just explode into civil war? We have already got that. And the question must be answered as we talk about deployment from out of the country.

At the same time, we have to decide to call on the Arab League or the Egyptians, to call together all the members of the community of Iraq: the Sunnis, the Shiias, the Kurds, the Turkomens, the Assyrians. All of them need to come together in a conference to resolve this. We have the idea that we can go with a Western idea of a constitution and that because it works here, we can just insert it into an Arab culture that has never worked under those circumstances.

□ 2350

What we need to do is recognize how Arabs have resolved problems for hundreds, thousands of years, if you will. It is called reaching an atwa.

If two villages, and this story was told to me by an iman, a high ranking Iraqi, he said many years ago two villages had a brother and sister and they married across these two towns. One went to one village, the other went to the other village. In one village the wife was fertile and quickly had three children. In the other, the wife was barren and had no children. The village made fun of her. They ridiculed her. They said she was a terrible woman, and the social pressure was so great that she killed herself by throwing herself into the village well.

Now under Arabic custom, that village that lost this woman has a right to go and extract blood within 24 hours. As those two villages came together for this bloodletting that was going to happen, they called and got them all to sit down and they decided how they were going to resolve this situation.

The decision was made that the village that had had the young woman die in it would give \$20,000 to the other village and that there would be no contact between those villages for 20 years. They reached an atwa, A-T-W-A.

What that is in the Arabic culture is an arrangement, not a peace treaty. In the West we think of peace treaties where I agree with you and you agree with me, and we sign a bunch of pieces of paper. In the Arab culture where there is honor, people say I will stay here for 20 years and you will stay there.

The gentleman who told me the story said I was there 20 years later when the money was brought back from the first village back to its original place. He said within 2 years, there were marriages between the young people from the two villages. Even though they were 6 kilometers apart, for 20 years there had been no contact.

Now, Arabs have been resolving these kinds of things for thousands of years in the desert. There is a way for the Sunnis and the Shiias and the Kurds and the Turkomens to come together, but it cannot be driven by the United States. We cannot say you come over

here and come to this conference that we are going to have in some hotel somewhere. It has to be called by the Arab League.

This same thing could have prevented the gulf war back in 1991. When Saddam Hussein went into Kuwait, the Arab League said before the Americans attack, let us settle this among the Arab community. This is a fight among us. Saddam Hussein thought he had fought in Iran because he was defending Kuwait and the Saudis, and he thought that they owed him something. He said give me some money, and they said no. And so he said all right, then I am going to move in and take Kuwait.

It could have been resolved if we had the patience to let this happen and the mentality in the White House that can allow Iraq to develop its own peaceful society. We have removed Saddam Hussein. We are all glad, but we now must let the Arabs resolve the situation in a way that makes sense to them.

REMEMBERING ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ERLENBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a beloved former Congressman from Illinois who passed away October 30, Representative John Erlenborn. John was a member of this body for nearly 20 years. Throughout his distinguished service in Congress, he became an expert on labor and pension issues and helped shape our Nation during a formative time in our history.

Born and raised in suburban Chicago, Mr. Erlenborn enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a 17-year-old during World War II. He studied at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, the University of Illinois, and Loyola University in Chicago from which he later received his law degree.

John went on to practice law at a firm he founded before he began his life in public service as an assistant state's attorney for Illinois' DuPage County. This inspired John to run for elected office. He went on to serve for 8 years in the Illinois General Assembly before coming to Congress in 1965.

John earned a spot as the Republican ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee where he became known as Mr. ERISA after avidly working to pass the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which created corporate pension plan standards that continue to protect American workers today.

When John retired from Congress in 1985, he did not leave behind his compassion and motivation to help those less fortunate than himself. Instead of fully enjoying retirement, John continued to give back and was appointed to serve on the board of directors and selected to serve as president of the